

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of allocating a plurality of data frames amongst a plurality of basestations, said plurality of data frames spanning an interval of time, said method comprising:
  - for each of said plurality of basestations allocating a sub-set of said plurality of data frames, said sub-set being contiguous in time within said interval of time.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of basestations operates using the same carrier frequency.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said data frames are timeslots in a Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) wireless network.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of basestations form part of a TDMA wireless network employing at least one of the Enhanced Data rates for Global Evolution (EDGE) and EDGE Compact standards.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
  - wherein said each of said plurality of basestations operates using a plurality of frequencies, allocating to each of said plurality of basestations a sub-set of said plurality of data frames for each of said plurality of frequencies used by a basestation, said sub-set of said plurality of data frames being contiguous in time within said interval of time.
6. A method of allocating a bitmap of resources in a wireless network amongst a plurality of co-channel basestations, said bitmap formed by a group of data frames, said method comprising:

dividing said bitmap of resources into sub-bitmaps, each of said sub-bitmaps formed by a contiguous portion of said group of data frames, each of said sub-bitmaps not overlapping in time with any other of said sub-bitmaps; and

allocating at least one of said sub-bitmaps to each of said plurality of co-channel basestations.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising:

prior to said dividing, forming the size of each of said sub-bitmaps responsive to at least one of: service loads for each of said plurality of co-channel basestations during at least one previously allocated bitmap; and service demands for each of said plurality of co-channel basestations during at least one previously allocated bitmap.

8. A basestation in a wireless cell, said basestation comprising:

a processing circuit in communication with memory storing computer readable instructions, said computer readable instructions adapting said processing circuit to:

receive instructions indicating a time period during which said basestation may communicate with mobilestations to be serviced by said basestation, said time period defined by a contiguous set of data frames; and

transmit to each of said mobilestations to be serviced by said basestation data identifying a portion of time during which a mobilestation may communicate with said basestation; and

11 communicate with said mobilestations during said time period.

1 9. The basestation of claim 8 wherein said instructions indicating a time period during  
2 which said basestation may communicate are defined by a group of timeslots, said  
3 group of timeslots defining a sub-bitmap.

1 10. The basestation of claim 9 wherein said processing circuit is further adapted to:

2 receive instructions defining a plurality of sub-bitmaps; and

3 allocate each of said plurality of sub-bitmaps to a sector serviced by said  
4 basestation.

5 11. A method of allocating wireless network resources amongst a plurality of basestations,  
6 said wireless network resources comprising a group of data frames, said method  
7 comprising:

8 receiving requests for wireless network resources from said plurality of basestations;

9 responsive to said requests, assigning to each of said plurality of basestations a  
10 portion of said wireless resources, said portion comprising a group of said data  
11 frames, said group of said frames being contiguous in time.

1 12. A method for coordinating operation of a plurality of basestations, each of said  
2 basestations operating with the same carrier frequency, said method comprising:

3 for a given time period, allocating a contiguous portion of said given time period to  
4 each of said plurality of basestations; and

transmitting to each of said plurality basestations data identifying said contiguous portion of said given time period allocated to a basestation.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

prior to said allocating, determining the service load for at least some of said plurality of basestations; and

wherein the size of said contiguous portions assigned to said each of said plurality of basestations is proportional to said service loads determined.

14. A computer readable medium operable to provide instructions for directing a processor circuit to allocate a bitmap of resources in a wireless network amongst a plurality of co-channel basestations, said bitmap formed by a group of data frames, said instructions directing said processing circuit to:

divide said bitmap of resources into sub-bitmaps, each of said sub-bitmaps formed by a contiguous portion of said group of data frames, each of said sub-bitmaps not overlapping in time with any other of said sub-bitmaps; and

allocating at least one of said sub-bitmaps to each of said plurality of co-channel basestations.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 14 further adapting said processing circuit to:

form the size of each of said sub-bitmaps responsive to at least one of: service loads for each of said plurality of co-channel basestations during at least one previously allocated bitmap; and service demands for each of said plurality of co-channel basestations during at least one previously allocated bitmap.